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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

GRAPEFRUIT PRODUCTION IN PORTO RICO

Reports from Porto Rico indicate a grapefruit production in that island during the present season of between 650,000 and 750,000 boxes. In a report received August 17 the representative of the Department of Agriculture in Porto Rico stated that, on account of the hurricane of July 23, the previous estimate of 720,000 made by fruit growers would have to be reduced by 7 to 12 per cent. Damage to trees were reported as negligible. A later report from Trade Commissioner Macgowan at San Juan stated that indications pointed to a crop of 750,000 boxes during the present season as compared with about 1,000,000 boxes in 1925-26. The reduction as compared with last year was attributed not only to the hurricane but also to the dry weather early in the summer.

Reports indicate that the Manati, Vega Baja, and Barceloneta districts have suffered particularly, with the coastal area near Manati as the worst loser. The Bayamon and Pueblo Viejo districts are said to have the best prospects but it is still too early to determine fully the damage done by the hurricane in July.

Grapefruit is produced in Porto Rico throughout the year. There are three crops designated as "early", "middle" and "late". The "early" crop extends between July 1 and November, the "middle" crop from December 1 to March 31 and the "late" crop runs from April 1 to the end of June. The early and late fruit bring the best prices on the New York market, states Mr. Macgowan, as the "middle" crop reaches the United States at about the same time that the Florida fruit is marketed.

Porto Rican grapefruit is divided into four grades "Fancy", "Bright", "Choice" and "Standard", and each grade is sub-divided into seven sizes: "36", "46", "54", "64", "80", "96" and "126". The numbers refer to the number of the particular size of fruit required to fill a box.

EXPORTS OF GRAPEFRUIT FROM PORTO RICO

The year ending June 30, 1926, was one of the best, if not the best, ever experienced by the grapefruit industry of Porto Rico, according to Trade Commissioner Macgowan. Exports reached a record figure and prices upon the whole were very satisfactory. The following statement shows the exports of grapefruit from Porto Rico for the past five years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
1921-22	360,772
1922-23	461,373
1923-24	667,248
1924-25	580,131
1925-26	809,038

Source: 1921-22 to 1924-25 from Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico. 1925-26 preliminary figure furnished by Trade Commissioner Macgowan.

With the exception of a few hundred boxes shipped annually to nearby islands the entire exports go to the United States. During the past year a few thousand boxes were sold to English buyers and transshipped at New York. Shipments in this manner to United Kingdom are a recent development but growers believe that market offers good opportunities.

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